

Customer No.: 31561  
Docket No.: 12590-US-PA  
Application No.: 10/709,607

## REMARKS

### Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-4, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Drori et al. (US 004642182) (hereinafter Drori) in view of Strauss (US 005401404) (hereinafter Strauss). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Drori in view of Strauss and further in view of Uhlenbrock (US006858051B2) and Lavery et. al (US003413778). Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Drori in view of Strauss further in view of Sprouse (US002929464). Claims 5-11 and 13-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit claims 1-4, 12, and 15-17 are in proper condition for allowance and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

### Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Drori in view of Strauss. The Office Action rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Drori in view of Strauss and further in view of Uhlenbrock and Lavery et. al. The Office Action rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Drori in view of Strauss and further in view of Sprouse. The Office Action objected claims 5-11 and 13-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

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In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2 and canceled claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating the subject matter of the canceled claim 5 therein, respectively which the Office Action considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 2 to improve clarity. Applicants have added the limitation of claim 5 into claim 1. Since the feature of "the disc filter comprises a plurality of ring-shaped discs stacked up on the base with the pipe set up on top of the disc filter" as recited in claim 5 is not taught by the cited references and thus is allowable, as asserted by Examiner, claim 1 containing the allowable subject matter is also allowable. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2-4, 12, 15, 16 and 17 patently define over the prior art as a matter of law.

**Allowable subject matter**

Claims 5-11 and 13-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the limitation of claim 5, which is allowable as asserted by Examiner, has been included in independent claim 1 that therefore should be allowable. Furthermore, since amended claim 1 patentably defines over the prior art, claims 6-11 and 13-14 dependent upon the amended claim 1 should be also patentable without rewritten into independent form.

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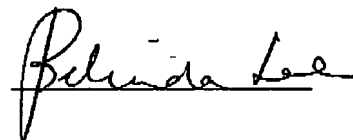
**CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-4 and 6-17 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Date :

April 16, 2007



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